Declaration of Forest Villages as Revenue Villages

3971. SHRI MAURICE KUJUR:
SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many forest villages in the country where the tribals do not possess the right to the land they cultivate for many years;

(b) if so, the number of such forest villages, State-wise, and the number of families living therein;

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to declare such forest villages as revenue villages;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Detailed guidelines have been issued to State/Union Territory Governments on 18.9.1990 for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. As per guidelines forest villages may be converted into revenue villages after denotifying requisite forest lands as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(d) So far formal proposals for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and renewal of pattas in favour of forest villages have been received from the Governments of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have recently forwarded 30 separate proposals involving 1346 forest villages for renewal of pattas in favour of 31,117 villagers. The Government of Orissa has sent proposals for conversion of 10 forest villages into revenue villages, out of which one proposal has been approved on 31-07-1990 and 9 proposals in involving 9 forest villages and 300 families are pending with Government of Orissa for want of additional information.

(e) Question does not arise.

Improvement of Higher Education in Andhra Pradesh

3972. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations recently to improve the education at University level in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any specific proposal for Godavari University has been made to the Central Government;

(c) how do Government propose to meet the demands of the people of West Godavari district for higher education;

(d) whether Government will review the needs of the people for higher education in agriculture-based districts all over the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission has received a letter from Dr. P. Pulla Rao of Eluru, West Godavari District suggesting setting up of a new University to be called 'Godavari University'. In response to the letter the Commission advised Dr. Rao to approach the Government of Andhra Pradesh as a State University is set up under an Act of State Legislature.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.